

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 65 and 66 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 60, 101, and 110-113, and add new claims 119-121, as follows:

Claims 1-59 (Canceled).

60. (Currently Amended) A tyre for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a tread band;

wherein the tread band comprises a tread-band pattern,

wherein the tread-band pattern comprises:

at least two circumferential portions, at least one of the circumferential portions comprising a first geometric module, wherein the first geometric module comprises: [[:]]

an elongated ridge; and

at least two shoulder blocks;

wherein the at least two circumferential portions are disposed in axial side-by-side relationship;

wherein ~~at least one of the circumferential portions comprises a~~ the first geometric module is repeated along a circumferential extension direction of the tyre,

wherein the elongated ridge is bounded by two grooves oblique to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the elongated ridge is divided into a plurality of intermediate blocks with respect to an axial extension direction of the tread band,

wherein the intermediate blocks are bounded by a plurality of cuts substantially transverse to the elongated ridge;

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are associated with the elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along a side edge of the tread band, [[and]]

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are bounded by grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein at least one circumferential shoulder groove separates the elongated ridge from the at least two shoulder blocks, and

wherein each intermediate block defines a substantially trapezoidal shape.

61. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, further comprising:

at least one circumferential groove separating the at least two circumferential portions.

62. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 61, wherein the at least one circumferential groove separating the at least two circumferential portions is spaced apart from an equatorial plane of the tyre.

63. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the oblique grooves have an inclination included between 15° and 35° relative to the circumferential extension direction.

64. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the substantially transverse grooves have an inclination included between 75° and 105° relative to the circumferential extension direction.

Claims 65 and 66 (Canceled).

67. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the elongated ridge comprises a swollen axially internal end, comprising:
at least two center blocks circumferentially aligned with each other.

68. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 67, wherein each center block comprises a substantially trapezoidal shape.

69. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 67, wherein the center blocks are bounded by substantially transverse cuts converging into a circumferential separating groove interposed between the at least two circumferential portions.

70. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the at least two shoulder blocks comprise a same circumferential size.

71. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the at least two shoulder blocks comprise different circumferential sizes.

72. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the at least two shoulder blocks associated with a first elongated ridge comprise different circumferential sizes than the at least two shoulder blocks associated with a second elongated ridge circumferentially adjacent to the first elongated ridge.

73. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the elongated ridge comprises:

an axially external end;

wherein the axially external end is substantially in axial alignment with one of the at least two shoulder blocks.

74. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 73, wherein the axially external end comprises:

an end block;

wherein the end block comprises a substantially trapezoidal shape.

75. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 73, wherein the first geometric module comprises:

an auxiliary block disposed circumferentially close to the axially external end.

76. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 75, wherein the auxiliary block is substantially in axial alignment with one of the at least two shoulder blocks.

77. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 75, wherein the auxiliary block is bounded by first and second branches of one of the oblique grooves, and wherein each branch opens into one of the substantially transverse grooves.

78. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 77, wherein each of the first and second branches is substantially in alignment with one of the substantially transverse grooves.

79. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 75, wherein the auxiliary block comprises a substantially trapezoidal shape.

80. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 76, wherein the shoulder block substantially in axial alignment with the axially external end comprises a circumferential size greater than a circumferential size of the shoulder block substantially in axial alignment with the auxiliary block.

81. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 76, wherein the shoulder block substantially in axial alignment with the axially external end comprises a circumferential

size smaller than a circumferential size of the shoulder block substantially in axial alignment with the auxiliary block.

82. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the plurality of cuts comprises first and second cuts,

wherein the first cuts are substantially perpendicular to the circumferential extension direction, and

wherein the second cuts are substantially perpendicular to the oblique grooves.

83. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 82, wherein the first and second cuts are disposed in an alternating sequence along a major extension direction of the elongated ridge.

84. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the tread-band pattern further comprises:

a plurality of sipes.

85. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 84, wherein the sipes are formed on the first geometric module in a mainly axial extension.

86. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 84, wherein each sipe comprises a sawtoothed profile.

87. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 84, wherein the tread-band pattern further comprises:

a plurality of connecting notches between the sipes.

88. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein each shoulder block comprises:

a first series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the first series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the first series are disposed parallel to each other according to an extension substantially parallel to the substantially transverse grooves.

89. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein each intermediate block comprises:

a second series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the second series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the second series are disposed parallel to each other in a mainly axial extension.

90. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 67, wherein each center block comprises:

a third series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the third series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the third series are disposed parallel to each other in a mainly axial extension.

91. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 73, wherein the axially external end comprises:

an end block;

wherein the end block comprises a substantially trapezoidal shape,

wherein the first geometric module comprises:

an auxiliary block disposed circumferentially close to the axially external end;

wherein each end block and each auxiliary block comprises:

a fourth series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the fourth series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the fourth series are disposed parallel to each other according to an extension substantially parallel to the substantially transverse grooves.

92. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the oblique grooves each run in an extension of one of the substantially transverse grooves.

93. (Withdrawn) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the tread-band pattern further comprises:

a second circumferential portion;

wherein the second circumferential portion comprises a second geometric module repeated along the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the second geometric module comprises:

 a second elongated ridge; and

 at least two second shoulder blocks;

wherein the second elongated ridge is bounded by two second grooves oblique to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the second elongated ridge is divided into a plurality of second intermediate blocks with respect to the axial extension direction,

wherein the second intermediate blocks are bounded by a plurality of second cuts substantially transverse to the second elongated ridge;

wherein the at least two second shoulder blocks are associated with the second elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two second shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along a second side edge of the tread band, and

wherein the at least two second shoulder blocks are bounded by second grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction.

94. (Withdrawn) The tyre of claim 93, wherein the second oblique grooves converge towards the oblique grooves of the first geometric module.

95. (Withdrawn) The tyre of claim 93, wherein the second oblique grooves are substantially parallel to the oblique grooves of the first geometric module.

96. (Withdrawn) The tyre of claim 93, wherein the first geometric module is circumferentially offset relative to the second geometric module.

97. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 60, wherein the tread-band pattern comprises a second circumferential portion, comprising:

a plurality of third shoulder blocks; and

a plurality of inner blocks;

wherein the third shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along a second side edge of the tread band,

wherein the third shoulder blocks are bounded by third grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the plurality of inner blocks are distributed along at least one circumferential row separated from the third shoulder blocks by a second circumferential shoulder groove, and

wherein the inner blocks are bounded by fourth grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction.

98. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the second circumferential portion of the tread-band pattern further comprises:

a first circumferential row of inner blocks; and

a second circumferential row of inner blocks;

wherein the first circumferential row of inner blocks is disposed in axial side-by-side relationship with the second circumferential row of inner blocks, and

wherein the first circumferential row of inner blocks is separated from the second circumferential row of inner blocks by a second circumferential groove.

99. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the third substantially transverse grooves are circumferentially offset relative to the fourth substantially transverse grooves.

100. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 98, wherein the fourth substantially transverse grooves bounding the inner blocks of the first circumferential row are circumferentially offset relative to the fourth substantially transverse grooves bounding the inner blocks of the second circumferential row, and

wherein the fourth substantially transverse grooves bounding the inner blocks of the first circumferential row are circumferentially offset relative to the third substantially transverse grooves.

101. (Currently Amended) The tyre of claim ~~[[97]]~~ 98, wherein the fourth substantially transverse grooves comprise:

fifth grooves inclined to the axial extension direction; and

sixth grooves substantially perpendicular to the circumferential extension direction.

102. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 101, wherein the fifth grooves are inclined to the axial extension direction by an angle included between 25° and 55°.

103. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 101, wherein the sixth grooves are inclined to the axial extension direction by an angle included between 5° and 20°.

104. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 101, wherein the fifth and sixth grooves are disposed in an alternating sequence along a respective circumferential row.

105. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 101, wherein the fifth grooves bounding the inner blocks of the first circumferential row are parallel to the fifth grooves bounding the inner blocks of the second circumferential row.

106. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the inner blocks comprise a substantially trapezoidal shape.

107. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the inner blocks comprise longitudinal sides inclined to the circumferential extension direction.

108. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 107, wherein the longitudinal sides are inclined to the circumferential extension direction by an angle included between 1° and 5°.

109. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the third substantially transverse grooves are inclined to the circumferential extension direction by an angle included between 75° and 105°.

110. (Currently Amended) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the third substantially transverse grooves of the second circumferential portion and the substantially transverse grooves of the at least two shoulder blocks of ~~[[a]]~~ the first circumferential portion converge towards each other.

111. (Currently Amended) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the third substantially transverse grooves of the second circumferential portion are substantially parallel to the substantially transverse grooves of the at least two shoulder blocks of ~~[[a]]~~ the first circumferential portion.

112. (Currently Amended) The tyre of claim 97, wherein the ~~second~~ third shoulder blocks comprise different circumferential sizes.

113. (Currently Amended) The tyre of claim 97, wherein each ~~second~~ third shoulder block comprises:

a fifth series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the fifth series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the fifth series are disposed according to an extension substantially parallel to the third substantially transverse grooves.

114. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 98, wherein the fourth substantially transverse grooves comprise:

fifth grooves inclined to the axial extension direction; and

sixth grooves substantially perpendicular to the circumferential extension direction.

wherein each inner block of the first circumferential row comprises:

a sixth series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the sixth series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the sixth series are disposed parallel to each other according to an extension oblique to the axial extension direction.

115. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 114, wherein the sipes of the sixth series extend substantially parallel to the fifth grooves.

116. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 101, wherein each inner block of the second circumferential row comprises:

a seventh series of sipes;

wherein the sipes of the seventh series comprise a sawtoothed profile, and

wherein the sipes of the seventh series are disposed parallel to each other according to an extension oblique to the axial extension direction.

117. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 116, wherein the sipes of the seventh series extend substantially parallel to the fifth grooves.

118. (Previously Presented) The tyre of claim 98, wherein a number of the shoulder blocks of the second circumferential portion is the same as a number of the inner blocks of the first circumferential row,

wherein the number of the shoulder blocks of the second circumferential portion is the same as a number of the inner blocks of the second circumferential row, and

wherein the number of the shoulder blocks of the second circumferential portion is twice a number of elongated ridges of a first circumferential portion.

119. (New) A tyre for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a tread band;

wherein the tread band comprises a tread-band pattern,

wherein the tread-band pattern comprises:

at least two circumferential portions, at least one of the circumferential portions comprising a first geometric module, wherein the first geometric module comprises:

an elongated ridge; and

at least two shoulder blocks,

wherein the at least two circumferential portions are disposed in axial side-by-side relationship,

wherein the first geometric module is repeated along a circumferential extension direction of the tyre,

wherein the elongated ridge is bounded by two grooves oblique to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the elongated ridge is divided into a plurality of intermediate blocks with respect to an axial extension direction of the tread band,

wherein the intermediate blocks are bounded by a plurality of cuts substantially transverse to the elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are associated with the elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along a side edge of the tread band,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are bounded by grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the tread-band pattern further comprises:

a second circumferential portion comprising a second geometric module,
the second geometric module comprising:

a plurality of third shoulder blocks; and

a plurality of inner blocks;

wherein the third shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along a second side edge of the tread band,

wherein the third shoulder blocks are bounded by third grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the plurality of inner blocks are distributed along at least one circumferential row separated from the third shoulder blocks by a second circumferential shoulder groove,

wherein the inner blocks are bounded by fourth grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction, and

wherein the third substantially transverse grooves are circumferentially offset relative to the fourth substantially transverse grooves.

120. (New) A tyre for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a tread band extending between opposing side edges of the tyre,

wherein the tyre is configured to be mounted on the vehicle wheel such that a first opposing side edge of the tread band corresponds to an inner portion of the tyre, and a second opposing side edge of the tread band corresponds to an outer portion of the tyre,

wherein the tread band comprises a tread-band pattern,

wherein the tread-band pattern comprises:

a first circumferential portion corresponding to the inner portion of the tyre

and

a second circumferential portion corresponding to the outer portion of the tyre,

the first circumferential portion comprising a first geometric module,

wherein the first geometric module comprises:

an elongated ridge; and

at least two shoulder blocks;

wherein the first and second circumferential portions are disposed in axial side-by-side relationship,

wherein the first geometric module is repeated along a circumferential extension direction of the tyre,

wherein the elongated ridge is bounded by two grooves oblique to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the elongated ridge is divided into a plurality of intermediate blocks with respect to an axial extension direction of the tread band,

wherein the intermediate blocks are bounded by a plurality of cuts substantially transverse to the elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are associated with the elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along the first opposing side edge of the tread band,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are bounded by grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction, and

wherein the second circumferential portion comprises a second geometric module, wherein the second geometric module comprises:

a plurality of third shoulder blocks; and

a plurality of inner blocks;

wherein the third shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along the second opposing side edge of the tread band,

wherein the third shoulder blocks are bounded by third grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction,
wherein the plurality of inner blocks are distributed along at least one circumferential row separated from the third shoulder blocks by a second circumferential shoulder groove, and
wherein the inner blocks are bounded by fourth grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction.

121. (New) A tyre for a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a tread band;

wherein the tread band comprises a tread-band pattern,

wherein the tread-band pattern comprises:

at least two circumferential portions, at least one of the circumferential portions comprising a first geometric module, wherein the first geometric module comprises:

an elongated ridge;

an end block;

an auxiliary block; and

at least two shoulder blocks;

wherein the at least two circumferential portions are disposed in axial side-by-side relationship;

wherein the first geometric module is repeated along a circumferential extension direction of the tyre,

wherein the elongated ridge is bounded by two grooves oblique to the circumferential extension direction,

wherein the elongated ridge is divided into a plurality of intermediate blocks with respect to an axial extension direction of the tread band,

wherein the intermediate blocks are bounded by a plurality of cuts substantially transverse to the elongated ridge;

wherein the end block defines an axially external end of the elongated ridge, substantially in axial alignment with one of said at least two shoulder blocks;

wherein the auxiliary block is disposed circumferentially close to the end block, substantially in axial alignment with another of said at least two shoulder blocks;

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are associated with the elongated ridge,

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are circumferentially aligned along a side edge of the tread band, and

wherein the at least two shoulder blocks are bounded by grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction.